

## PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

motivation toward multiple or sequential examinations. This area is a separate enterprise usually developed under the rubric of health education or patient education, and normally is a concomitant of any industrial, in-plant evaluation program. For success, there must be a positive view toward such periodic determinations of health status.

Further, implicit in this discussion is the need for honesty in reporting, for only then do physical examination results assume strength and credence. Misstatements and approval of a substandard worker as fit to undertake a task which places innumerable persons at life-and-death risk is unconscionable and only does society a disservice.

Last, it is hoped that all examinations be conducted in light of their singular preventive medicine worth, and not merely a form of instrumented lip service to comply with regulations born of fine intention.

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## Perils of Needle Tracheotomy

NEEDLE TRACHEOTOMY is not entirely without difficulty in that there is a small artery, a branch of the inferior thyroid, the cricothyroid, which can be pierced by the needle. Although this is a life-saving procedure and is a good alternative, it is important to remember that artery. I had one patient who lost about six units of blood after "just" a transcricothyroid aspiration of subglottic secretions for bacteriological examination. So, it is something to keep in mind.

### —AUDIENCE COMMENT

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